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July 6, 2022

Hon. Joyce Murray Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Government of Canada

Dear Joyce Murray:

Re: Total Allowable Catch levels for Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) for the 2022 season in Shrimp Fishing Area 0

#### **NWMB Decision**

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM002-2022) on June 15, 2022, Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented a proposal requesting that the Board recommend a total allowable catch for northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Shrimp Fishing Area 0 (SFA 0) for the 2022 fishing season.

At the NWMB's June 17, 2022, In-Camera Meeting (IC002-2022), the Board made the following recommendations:

**RESOLVED** that, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board recommends a total allowable catch of 500 tonnes of *Pandalus borealis* in Shrimp Fishing Area 0 for the 2022 fishing season.

FUTHER RESOLVED that, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board reaffirms their recommendation to change the Conditions of Licence to permit Nunavut sub-allocation holders' access to the Shrimp Fishing Area 0 shrimp fishery.

#### **Reasons for NWMB Decision**

In reaching these recommendations, the NWMB considered Fisheries and Oceans Canada's submission, stakeholder's input, and other relevant information. The Board considered that the total allowable catch for SFA 0 has been set at a competitive 500 metric tonnes since 1996 but has never been fished beyond exploratory trials.

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Given the above considerations, the Board decided to recommend a rollover of the 500 metric tonnes in SFA 0 for northern shrimp for the 2022 fishing season.

Current Conditions of Licence do not permit offshore licence holders to conduct this shrimp fishery within the Nunavut Settlement Area boundaries of SFA 0. To promote the opportunity for equitable Nunavut-based fishery development, on April 11, 2021, the NWMB recommended that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada change the Conditions of Licence to permit Nunavut sub-allocation holder's access to the competitive 500 metric tonnes within SFA 0. The Board reaffirms this recommendation.

# **NWMB Nunavut Agreement Jurisdiction**

To ensure ongoing dialogue, the NWMB wishes to remind you that the Board has previously expressed the need to clarify NWMB's role in the management of commercial fisheries inside and outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area pursuant to Article 5 and Article 15 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. The Board has jurisdiction over wildlife management decisions in the Nunavut Settlement Area under Article 5. Under Article 15, the NWMB provides relevant information to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans for marine areas beyond the Nunavut Settlement Area.

When setting the total allowable catch for SFA 0, the NWMB had previously raised issues about the operation of administrative boundaries for management units and the *Nunavut Agreement*, particularly Article 5. The NWMB understands that setting a total allowable catch for the Nunavut Settlement Area would require satisfying a section 5.3.3 condition (excerpt from August 26, 2020, letter from Minister Bernadette Jordan to NWMB Chair).

As stated in our letter to you on April 08, 2021, the Board remains committed to a staff level engagement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to clarify NWMB's role in the management of commercial fisheries inside and outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area pursuant to Article 5 and Article 15 of the Nunavut Agreement.

### Conclusion

The Board hereby forward their recommendations to you for your consideration pursuant to the relevant terms of the *Nunavut Agreement*. The NWMB looks forward to



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continued collaboration with co-management partners for the management of Nunavut's commercial fisheries. If you or your officials have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Joshua T. Arreak Acting Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

> cc: Derek Mahoney, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Paula Smith, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Joshua T. Arreak Acting Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board P.O. Box 1379 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Arreak,

The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf to your correspondence of July 6, 2022, regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (the Board) recommendation on *Pandalus borealis* in shrimp fishing area (SFA) 0.

## **Total Allowable Catch**

Consistent with the Board's recommendations, the Minister has decided to set a total allowable catch for *P. borealis* of 500t in SFA 0, to be harvested outside the Nunavut Settlement Area as per the Conditions of Licence, which aligns with the Board's recommendation.

# **Expanding Access to Competitive Fishery in SFA 0**

After considering the Board's recommendation, the Minister has decided that she requires further information and clarity in order to properly consider and take a decision on expanding access to the competitive fishery in SFA 0 to Nunavut sub-allocation holders. I am interested in working with Board staff to clarify the NWMB's different roles in respect of the management of the different areas within SFA 0, as well as the specific intent of the recommendation on access. Greater clarity through additional discussion will help determine the appropriate way forward on these matters.

I appreciate the Board's collaboration and cooperation in the sustainable management of the shared shrimp resource in the north and look forward to discussions in the future. Our officials will reach out to Board staff to discuss the issues outlined above.

Sincerely.

Todd Williams

Acting Director General, Fisheries Resource Management